

Pst. Oghenethoja Umuteme MSc MDiv ThD

**Not for
Sale**



Fruitful Vine

FEBRUARY
EDITION
FEB. 2019

A Study Devotional



Spending Time with God

Time	Description	Action
5:00am - 5:30am	Praising His awesomeness in the cool of the morning breeze and Dedicating of the day's activity. You may decide to do it outside to feel the cool morning breeze	Prayer/Praise
9:00am-9:05am	Read a Psalm of praise back to Him. Tell Him what you feel for Him in adoration and total submission	Praise
12:00noon - 12:30pm	It is noontime – half of the workday is gone. Tell Him thank you for allowing you cross over to the other half of the workday. Thank Him for all that transpired while you worked	Prayer/Praise
4:00pm- 4:05pm	Read another Psalms of Praise	Praise
6:00pm - 6:30pm	Thank Him for the day. You are probably now at home. Call the family together or a neighbour and worship Him together	Prayer/Praise
9:00pm - 9:05pm	Read a Psalms of praise after which you should take a rest while reading your bible and meditating	Praise
11:55pm - 12:30am	Thank Him for allowing you to see a new day and take control of the new day	Prayer/Praise

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Preface

This month of February is a special breakthrough month for those who believe in what God can do to turn their situations around for good. Several topics will be featured. The aim is still to turn the reader into a Fruitful Vine of the Lord. You see, devotionals are not mere literally works. Rather, they point every child of God to his or her source of grace daily. When we study through the word of God, we receive His incarnate personality into our hearts. What we receive gradually begin to glow in our hearts. Also, the divine will begin to instruct our hearts on how to live. Once we are in this stage, our faces will become transformed by the Glory of God. This Glory is what others will see, and will give them the confidence that we have God in us, saying – “...Surely God is in thee...” Isaiah 45:14.

I encourage you to take a step of faith to first study through the pages of this devotional and the scripture references. Then, take time off to meditate – say up to 30 minutes or an hour.

The intention is to allow one to regurgitate what one had studied and to ponder over the salient revelations of the person of God in the scriptures used in the devotional. The quest for theology is to understand how God might have revealed Himself in time past to those who wrote their encounters with the divine in the Bible. When we study the words as contained in the Bible, we are taken back – in time and substance to the days of the prophets, of Jesus, and of His apostles. That deep-soaking into the past, is a good reference for correcting the life we live today. Such that, instead of allowing the world to dictate the plan and purpose of God for His dear universe, the Bible becomes the anchor for positioning the world to be in tune with the will of God. As I stated earlier, this month of February promises to be fruitful. It is my prayer that you firmly relate with the divine throughout this month. Shalom!

Pastor Oghenethoja Umuteme

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The Duty of Thanksgiving and Praise

*And to stand every morning to thank and praise the Lord,
and likewise at even. 1 Chron. 23:30*



In this new era of heavenly order of priesthood, we stand to worship the Lord in the beauty of His holiness – Psa. 29:2. The anchor verse above says that our thanks and praise must come to the Lord in the morning and in the evening. Why is this a requirement? Moses informed the Israelites of the reward of serving the Lord God, “Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out” – Deut. 28:6. Implying further, that God blesses those who serve Him. He expects them to leave their homes in thanks and praise unto Him for the planned daily success ahead, and to remember to thank and praise Him for the daily success that was actually achieved. God is fearful in praises, doing wonders – Exo. 15:11; meaning, He can over-favour those that praise Him unconditionally. I will encourage us to do this with every member of our family in attendance. We can praise God with musical instruments – Psa. 33:2. Praising God is a duty of worship. It shows that we revere Him above our human desires – Psa. 22:23. The Bible tells us that Lucifer, who mounted the mountain of the Lord, where praise

ought to proceed unto God from the earth, has been demoted – Ezk. 28:13-14. Where will God receive thanks and praise from upon the face of earth if not from you and me? So, you can see why Jesus reiterated the fact that the father is in need of worshippers who will revere Him in truth and in spirit – John 4:23-24. We have a duty of thanksgiving and praise before God. We can start today – in sincerity, and obedience to His righteous will for all mankind – to the glory of His holiness.

Faith confession: I understand that I have a duty of thanksgiving and praise unto the Lord. I equally know that praising God shows that I revere Him.

Let us pray: Ancient of days and my King. I may not have thanked you and praised you enough. Henceforth, lead my heart to revere and adore you in thanks and praise. So that my life will reflect the beauty of your glory in your praise. Amen!

Meditation: 1 Chron. 23:5; Psalms 7:17; Psalms 9:1-2

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Overcoming Self=Praise

*Man that is in honour, and understandeth not,
is like the beasts that perish. Psalms 49:20*



God expects His children to understand that honour comes from Him alone. So, when we are honoured by God, and the lines start to fall unto us in pleasant places, we must understand that it is by His mercies that we are where we are. Scripture gave indication of how God can honour man, in Isaiah 10:15, "Shall the **axe** boast itself against him that heweth therewith? or shall the **saw** magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the **rod** should shake itself against them that lift it up, or as if the **staff** should lift up itself, as if it were no wood." The highlighted words above are Axe; Saw; Rod; and Staff, as attributes of the nature of honour. When we become the battle Axe of God, He uses us to bring judgement upon the heathen nations through teaching the word of Truth— Jer. 51:20. If we become His Saw, God can use us to bring down the wicked – those who boast that they do not need God to succeed, and who trample on His children daily. Again, this we can do through the teaching of sound doctrine of repentance. We can equally become a Rod lifted up by God, as bearers of His authority and arm of judgement to deliver the deprived from

oppressive tyrants. God can make us worthy to become His Staff of authority on the face of earth – to bring peace upon His creation; to become one who can be in governance and lead His children in His name, with fear and trembling. In all these, God expects that we become extremely humble before Him – as our Lord, who is meek and lowly. If we lift up ourselves as if we have achieved honour and greatness by ourselves alone, there is every tendency we would not last long on that height of achievement before we are brought down.

Faith confession: Lord! Today I make myself available for your authority of honour, so that I can render my service unto you according to your will.

Let us pray: Lord, I understand that you created me for your purpose. Enable me to realise this purpose early. Make me your instrument of justice and peace. Amen!

Meditation: Psalms 92:12;
Exodus 35:29-35

The Face of Wisdom

... a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed. Ecclesiastes 8:1



The **Wisdom of God** is obvious upon His chosen ones. As we can see from the anchor scripture portion above, it brings honour unto him that has it. If there is one companionship the Bible frowns at, it is being in the company of the foolish. The following are some of the reasons why we are expected to avoid foolish people, and these includes: they lack knowledge – Pro. 14:7; they disregard elders - Pro. 15:20; hardly make financial savings – Pro. 21:20; hardly considers the rainy day in their life achievements plan – Matt. 7:26; can destroy their own homes – Prov. 14:1; prefers hard labour– Ecc. 10:15; always afraid because they are despised by God – Ps. 53:5. Scripture tells us in Jer. 5:4-5, how both the poor and rich disregards their service to the Lord. One striking information in Jer. 5:4, is the fact that the poor are in their state of poverty because they are foolish and do not set their hearts to know the Lord – His ways and judgement. Again, the rich became who they are because they know the way of the Lord and the judgements of God, yet they break the law of God and disobey His instructions. Another striking indication that poverty is connected to faithlessness is in 1 Tim. 5:8, “But if any provide not for

his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” Why will a man not be able to provide for his household if not that he is poor? An infidel, is an unbeliever. So, if a man who cannot provide for his household is worse than an infidel, it only come to terms with our argument above that our service to God can make our face shine unto favour and honour in riches. Again, Scripture tells us that a fool says in his heart that there is no God – Ps. 14:1. Hence, an infidel is also a fool. God also uses the foolish to execute harsh judgement on unbelievers – Deut. 32:21.

Faith confession: Henceforth, I have made up my mind to seek the Lord, obey His commandments, execute His judgements and seek His wisdom.

Let us pray: Lord! Today I pray that your grace and mercy should locate my soul, and strengthen me to follow and execute your will all the days of my life. Amen!

Meditation: Psalm 53:1-6; Deut. 32:6

Thriving for Greatness

And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only; and thou shalt not be beneath. Deut. 28:13



Are you thriving for greatness? Greatness does not come by mere wishes; it comes by taking that bold step to make a difference. God intends we thrive to attain a state of sinless glory. We are plunged into a pitiable state when we disconnect ourselves from His Glory. The verse above indicates that God can turn our pitiable situations around – from slavery to victory. When God makes us the head, we lead in good health, academic performance, business profitability and in governance. When He makes us to be 'above' always, we live a debtless life; becoming givers rather than receivers. To be beneath is to sit in spiritual darkness – Isa. 42:7. To be the 'tail' is to become voiceless in the affairs of the family, society and even in governance. Scripture indicates in verse sixteen of the ninth chapter of Ecclesiastes that, "...the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard." We can see why God intends that we become great to be able to have a voice in our homes and society, and to positively affect and influence life. We can equally take learning from Job 29:12, that when we are in authority of greatness, we can

speak to defend the poor. This is where many Christians who have attained greatness misses it – we become driven by material possessions, and careless of the task of standing for the poor. Rather, we look for donations from corrupt political administrators and celebrate them publicly to the hurt of their judicial responsibility. Job used his God-given greatness to influence those in leadership and deliver the poor from their gruesome anarchy – Job 29:7-12. Know that God is willing to make you great.

Faith confession: Lord, I understand that I can turn my denials into abundance if I obey your instructions for a glorious life. I lift my heart to appreciate greatness.

Let us pray: My God, grant me the character to become great. I don't want to be the tail and be beneath. Help my weak soul to appreciate greatness. Amen!

Meditation: Isa. 60:1,15; Job 29:1-25

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Living in the Power of His Atonement

...Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ... Rev. 12:10



It was the day I read Psalms 51:12, “Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit,” that I understand that my service unto the Lord God is to enable me become totally free from whatever does not give God praise. The anchor verse above says that the evil acts of tale-bearing of Lucifer before God was holding the salvation, strength, the kingdom of God and the power of Christ from manifesting in heavenly abodes of angels. It was one of the abominations in Leviticus 19:16, “Thou shalt not go up and down as a tale-bearer among thy people...” When people become tale-bearers against us before those God has positioned to help us, we continuously live a life of endless insufficiency. If the tale-bearing is done by devils in spiritual abodes, we become denied of the atoning grace of God. But, we can stop the forces of darkness from collapsing our destiny and squeezing it in the mud if we avoid tale-bearers and we also, ensuring we are not tale-bearers against others. We are admonished in Luke 6:31, “And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.” The atoning power in the blood of our Lord can set us free only when we do not behave like Lucifer, whom God anointed as a Cherub and was

in charge of all worship ordinances in the mountain of God (Ezk. 28:14), yet decided to rob God of His glory (Isa. 14:12-13). We are, therefore, admonished to remain holy and separated from sin to continually enjoy the power of His atoning grace – 1 Pet. 1:15-16. If you can give God your time, He will give you His attention. It is possible – only a trial will convince you. Hence, King David reiterated the goodness of God when he said – “O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him” – Psa. 34:8.

Faith confession: Lord – Jesus! I understand that your atoning power is available for those who resists the temptations of Lucifer to challenge the Father and His righteous course for mankind. I promise to stay where God has called me to serve Him.

Let us pray: Lord- I pray that your works at Calvary be perfected in my life. I pray- dear Lord, that you take over my reins and impregnate my inner mind with your wish and desires for me. Let my days serve you. Let my heart glorify you alone. Amen!

Meditation: Psa. 34:1-22; 1 Pet. 1:1-25

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Befriending the Wise

*There is treasure to be desired and oil
in the dwelling of the wise...Prov. 21:20*



The kind of friends you make, determines how successful you will become in life, and how long you will stay upon the mountain of success. Joseph advised Pharaoh, in Genesis 41:33, to “look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.” To be discreet is to be prudent. Hence, the wise is also the one who is prudent. Moses equally looked for those who were wise-hearted to execute the commandments of the Lord to build the tabernacle – Exo. 35:10. We can see that the wise gets all the juicy recognition and positions. This is why it is important to befriend them. Wisdom beautifies us the way gold earrings and other ornaments of gold makes faces to turn in our direction – Prov. 25:12. The anchor verse above says that the home of the wise is filled with treasure and oil. Why? It is because the wise knows how to save for the raining day. When we befriend people that are wiser than us, we will befriend their own circle of friends and will begin to learn the hidden wisdom that makes them wise and rich in Christ. This is one reason the Bible frowns against us cursing or

gossiping those who are righteous, and either in leadership or have control over wealth - Ecc. 10:20. This is the kind of wisdom we get when we study the ants as they build their ant hill – Prov. 6:6. The wisdom of the world has the potential to lead one astray and God frowns against that – Jer. 8:9. It should be noted here, that wise people are thinkers. Hence, you need patience to walk with them. Every talk must be meaningful, profitable and able to solve a problem affecting society negatively, else they won't be interested.

Faith confession: Lord – Today, I am willing to befriend those who are wiser than me in your knowledge and understanding.

Let us pray: Lord! guide me to follow those who are wiser in your wisdom. Let your grace teach me the character to become prudent and wise. Amen!

Meditation: Prov. 23:15-21; Prov. 6:6-11

FEBRUARY 2019

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A Life of Good Treasure

*The Lord shall open unto thee His
good treasure...Deut. 28:12*



When I read through the above verse, what came to my mind is the question of whether one can have bad treasure. The intention of this question is to understand what it means to be under the canopy of divine favour from God. A treasure is a treasure. However, we are informed in Prov. 10:22, "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." The translation above says that there is a blessing that is "of the Lord." It is this blessing that is referred to above as, "His good treasure." Now, what makes up the Lord's good treasure that becomes a blessing without sorrow? We can get learning from many who became successful in life and their later end was filled with dejection and extreme poverty. Their offspring did not even make a headway in life aside from depending on their parents' meagre income. Many have struggled to make ends meet with no success. What could have been responsible? Some points accusing fingers at their enemies, and for most Africans, the problem is spiritual and linked to ancestral curses or other forms of spiritual attacks. Man's inability to inherit the good treasure of

the Lord can be linked to worship of idols. We must understand that serving the Lord is achieved through the maturity of our inner spiritual conscience. If we want to enjoy God's treasure, we must subject our entire belief to 'Faith in God alone.' This is corroborated in Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." We now have the presence of God through Christ in our body to enable us to succeed against all odds (Gal. 4:6; 2 Cor. 4:7-10).

Faith confession: I know that God can open His good treasure to me if He can trust me enough to be wise and prudent, and bearing His light of righteousness.

Let us pray: Lord – Jesus! I pray that you sustain me in your blessings. Let me be filled with the reward of faithfulness. Let me not serve you in penury. Open unto me your good treasures and let my bowels be satisfied with plenty. Amen!

Meditation: Exo. 19:5-6; 2 Cor. 4:7-10

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Pleasing God

*...the Father hath not left me alone; for I do
always those things that please him. John 8:29*



It is easy to know if God is still with us. Jesus gave us a secret to sustaining the presence of God in our lives, which is to please God – the Father. How do we please Him who knows all things, and is above all creation? How can we please a God that is immutable yet present in the affairs of men? If we find it hard to please our earthly parents who we see and interact with daily, how possible is it for mankind to please God? These and many more questions we might have asked. But, the obvious truth is that God want mankind to please Him. This is the reason behind the Ten Commandments handed over to Moses. Jesus indicated that He always did what the Father does in heaven. You may have read how Jesus went about doing good as stated in Acts 10:38. So, it equally suffices to conclude that God the Father does good always, as was reiterated several times in the first chapter of the book of Genesis, where God saw that all that He created were good. Exodus 33:19 says “And he (God) said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the

name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.” Why would God show mercy and be gracious to some people? It is to demonstrate His goodness. David prayed to have this goodness in Psalms 23:6, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.” Doing good is when we live to please the Lord, by establishing His word in the heart of men (Psa. 51:13). This is how we follow the example of Jesus wherever we found ourselves.

Faith confession: Oh God – I will endure all it takes to share the word of the gospel of Christ wherever I found myself. Help me with your enduring Spirit.

Let us pray: Lord! I pray to make myself available for your use. Strengthen me with your Spirit. Give me the courage to endure your encouragement. Amen!

Meditation: Psa. 25:1-22

Have Life More Abundantly

...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly: John 10:10



What does it mean to have life, and have it more abundantly? To have life means to have control over the events that happen to us daily. Is this possible? Can we really control the affairs of our lives in the midst of all the problems in society – economically, culturally and politically? If being in control of our lives is not possible, why would Jesus promise to enable us to have this control? Self-control is one of the characteristics of those who live a meaningful life. We must control our lusts, food cravings, quest for liberty and desires for material wealth. We must practice birth control. We must be prudent in our spending. Those who have life know how precious life is. They won't live their lives as though they were candles in the wind. They know they have a creator who demands accounts of how we live our lives. Life is so precious – and the reason we try to save our loved ones from death-threatening illnesses. Life is important – it is the reason we procreate and do all within our power to sustain pregnancies and give attention to our offspring. Those who have life and have it more abundantly can determine what they

want from God to live a meaningful life. They plan their lives. The devil cannot determine their portion in the land of the living. Understanding the above scripture passage will make you understand why God was angry with Moses when the children of Israel became afraid as they were between the red sea and the chariots of Pharaoh. Moses had the authority to make things happen in his rod- Exo. 14:16. Likewise, God granted you power over your life in Christ – “a rod out of the stem of Jesse,” Isa. 11:1. We can no longer blame the devil for our inability to overcome the temptations to sin.

Faith confession: I understand that Jesus have given me control over my life. I promise to seek your wisdom to enable me live it wisely to the glory of the Father.

Let us pray: Lord! Grant me the wisdom to live my life beyond the control of man and physical forces, and to depend wholly on the thoughts of heaven for me. Amen!

Meditation: Galatians 5:22-26; Daniel 1:8-15; Judges 13:13-14

First Things First

*Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead:
but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. Luke 9:60*



What defines our priorities on earth? In life, it is important one understands those issues that must be attended to first. These are termed matters of urgency. As indicated in the anchor verse above, Jesus' priority was to set the kingdom of God in place. Also, this can be understood from His prayer in Matthew 6:10 – “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.” If we look deeply into the scripture we just read, we notice precedence – the kingdom must be established first, before the will of God can be done on earth. What does this explain? How will the kingdom come? In the anchor verse - Luke 9:60 above, Jesus indicated that the kingdom must be preached. Now, to become a fruitful vine unto the Lord, we need to become involved in executing this matter of urgency – “go thou and preach the kingdom of God.” In like manner, marriage comes before children. Again, thinking comes before knowledge is gained. Scripture advocates that humility comes before honour – Pro. 15:33. What are we putting first this year? Aside from preaching the kingdom of God, there are equally things we need to think of – things we require to live a meaningful life

physically. This is the reason we develop a scale of preference, where items of foremost concern are set in the midst of alternatives. It is therefore important that after making up our minds to preach the gospel as our first priority, we also need to itemise our material needs, and prioritise them in order of urgency. How can we know what things to put first? Scripture says that these things must be true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report and can bring praise to God – Philippians 4:8. This is equally summarised in Matthew 5:16 – “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Faith confession: I am determined to preach the kingdom of God. I am determined to focus my mind on matters of urgency first, instead of settling on frivolous issues.

Let us pray: Lord! Help me to stand firm on the path that brings the glory of God; to preach the kingdom and live a life that symbolises the holiness of God. Amen!

Meditation: Mark 16:15,20; 1 Cor. 9:16; 1 Cor. 4:20; Rom. 14:17-18

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Choosing Life Confidants

*Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither
cast ye your pearls before swine... Matthew 7:6*



Here, the Bible indicates that some persons cannot serve as your “life confidants.” Why? The latter end of the scripture verse quoted says, “... lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.” These people referred to as dogs and swine above, listens to your “life plans” and come attacking so that you become totally destroyed. In Proverb 18:24, scripture counsels us to show ourselves friendly to “... a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” This advice equally tells us that not all brothers can serve as life confidants. Who are you discussing your life plans with? Now, let’s go back to the anchor verse above. Who were the dogs and swine that Christ referred to? They were the teachers of the law and priests that makes up the Sanhedrin; the council of elders who ought to live by the precept of God. One can understand how the Sanhedrin failed the people of God from Matthew 5 & 6. Jesus espouses that they were not even knowledgeable about the things of God, yet they were in charge of the affairs of the nation, in John 3:12, “If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell

you of heavenly things?” This portion of scripture clearly warns us to be careful on who we listen to – those that we easily run to for counsel. Again, one can see how disappointed Jesus was on the low level of knowledge and understanding displayed by the Pharisees, including Nicodemus, John 3:10, “Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?” Choose your life confidants wisely this year, and your bank of knowledge will increase through sound counsel and wisdom. For instance, your spouse-to-be must be willing to seek and improve in knowledge about earthly and heavenly things. Avoid dogs and swine this year.

Faith confession: Henceforth, I will choose those who knows and exhibit perfect understanding of earthly and heavenly things as my life confidants.

Let us pray: Dear Lord! I ask for your guidance on who to choose as my close confidants. Help me to avoid the deceitful; who act like dogs and swine. Amen!

Meditation: Deut. 13:6-8; Prov. 17:17-18; Micah 7:5-7; Prov. 1:10

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Overcoming the Praises of Men

*... the chief rulers ... did not confess him [Jesus], ...
For they loved the praise of men... John 12:42-43*



Some members of the ruling class in Israel in the days of Jesus wanted the praise of men, and ended up losing the recognition of God. Have you imagined what will happen to your life when God praises you? Jesus teaches us to always wait patiently for the reward of God when He said we should not do our arms in the streets – Matt. 6:2. Yet, today we see those giving arms to the poor in church covering the event in the media, as if mocking the God that created the poor. If those who give freely to pastors do not announce it in public, why should pastors give arms to the poor in the full glare of TV cameras? Many are encouraged to give when praised by men. But, believers should act differently. Our reward is in the hand of the Lord – He is the God that provided all that we have today. Scripture warns severally that we should not trust in the arms flesh – 2 Chron. 32:7-8. In whatever you do, do it to the best you can – and not because you want to earn the praise of men. Do not be tired in helping others – 2 Thess. 3:13. If you serve in the church as a worker – earn the recognition of God, and not that of the pastor. Also, in our marriages, we should thrive to please God so that we do

not take offence when we no longer get the admiration of our spouse. Praises of men cannot even develop the patience that will enable us to perform outstandingly. Jesus became our shepherd by the sacrifice of His own blood – Heb. 13:20. Give your best shot always. If you buy a car or build a house, do it for the purpose they serve and not to earn the praise of men. Give freely because it makes God glad, and not to earn the praise of men. Serve in that leadership authority to the best you can, to receive the praise of God. Remember, promotion only come from God. The earth approves, as heaven honours those who work and wait on the Lord.

Faith confession: I understand that I do not need the praise of men to succeed in life. Henceforth, I resolve to patiently earn your praise in whatever I do.

Let us pray: Lord! I ask that you help me to overcome pride. Enable me to depend on your praise, and the inner persuasion to always follow your footstep. Amen!

Meditation: 2 Thess. 3:11-12; Heb. 13:16, 20-21; 1 Peter 2:20-25

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Observing to Understand

“Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving kindness of the Lord.” Psa. 107:43



Not everyone who claim to have wisdom that is able to observe the salient information surrounding the issues of life. If we look deeply into the anchor verse above, those who understand issues need to become wise first, then be ready to observe – meaning, following the rules that sets processes in place. God is working daily in our lives. The entire earth and heaven showcases the handicraft of His might. His glory is displayed beyond the circus of human morality and dignity. Yet, the echelons of spiritual authority are not exhibited for a moment – but, for eternity. There, one look upwards towards the everlasting source of hope for mankind. We can see, all around us – the beauty of His holiness. We can declare that He has never changed from eternity to eternity; this is understanding the loving kindness of God. Understanding God requires one to first obey His instructions. Through obedience, we learn to understand His will for humanity. I will encourage us to start by obeying the covenant terms in the Ten Commandments, in Exodus 20. This will be followed by eschewing the ill characters and behaviours outlined by Jesus, in Mark 7:21-23 - evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit,

lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, and foolishness. How can we follow the precepts of the Lord to the later? We must seek to understand ourselves, neighbours, our environments, and our universe. All these come by observation. Take a pulse today. Think through the life you have now, through reminiscences. It is not to blame self and others, but to take learning that can help us improve and become productive. Be encouraged to follow the Lord – by observing His precepts, and understanding His plan and purpose for mankind.

Faith confession: I am determined to follow God through observation, obedience and the understanding of His precepts. I am encouraged to stand firm as a fruitful vine.

Let us pray: Oh God! Help me to understand the path that lead to your unending glory. Ignite my heart to receive you into my being, and let my mind resound your love wherever I found myself - that I may be able to demonstrate your love to others. Amen!

Meditation: Psa. 14:1-3; Prov. 1:5; Prov. 11:12; Prov. 15:21-23

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Restoring Deadness to Life

"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God." Rom. 4:20



The anchor verse refers to Abraham's walk with God. Prior to the above statement, Apostle Paul revealed that the reproductive system of Abraham was dead, just as Sara's womb was equally dead – Rom. 4:19. Yet, Abraham's faith in God was able to restore their deadness to life, and they had Isaac. God can restore deadness to life if we present that deadness in our lives before Him. It is this assurance that led to Ezekiel's prophecy of "the dead and forgotten" coming back to life - Ezk 37:5-10. Ezekiel was mandated to speak as commanded by the Lord. This made the dead and dismantled skeletons to assemble, before flesh grew upon them. We noticed that Ezekiel keenly observed that the assembled skeletons with human flesh had no breath. Upon receiving a further instruction to fuse breath into the bodies – he commanded breathe to come from the convergence of the winds from the North, South, East and West. One can notice that the power of faith is clearly displayed above. I will like to explain how Ezekiel displayed his understanding of the working power of God. Just like we might have seen the rumbling noise of storms, earthquakes, tsunamis, thunders, etc., so also is God's intervention in our dead situations. So,

you might notice some kind of disagreements with people as you begin to toe the path that leads to the salvation of the Lord – Luke 12:53. If you will not give up, you will begin to notice improvements in your own life – health, business, academics, etc. It is this understanding that makes Saint John to indicate in 3 John 1:2, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." As we can see from this verse, salvation restores deadness to life, so we can prosper physically and spiritually. Don't forget, the saints were still experiencing persecutions.

Faith confession: I understand that I can speak life into every dead situation around me, including my own life, provided I act according to the Lord's instructions.

Let us pray: Lord! teach me on how to speak your word in due season upon every situation in my life and the life of others needing restoration. Amen!

Meditation: Psa. 51:1-12; Jer. 30:17; Joel 2:25-27; Isa. 42:22

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Keeping It Real with God

*“Their eyes stand out with fatness:
they have more than heart could wish.” Psalm 73:7*



As indicated in the scripture above, many expect too much from this life, that they end up storing evil thoughts in their hearts. Recently, stories show how fraudsters take lives of unsuspecting victims in their quest for material wealth. If we read down to verses 8 & 9 of Psalm 73, we see a clear explanation of those who pursue wealth to their own hurt – “They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.” Haven’t we come across or heard about these sets of individuals in the society, and particularly in church? Have we not notice pastors with such attitudes and characters – who act as though they can command heaven at will without waiting for instructions from God? The aim of such acts can be seen in the anchor verse above – “their eyes stand out with fatness.” This is not an attitude expected of those who live with the fear of the Lord. If we want to live a life that demonstrates the likeness of God, then we must abhor greediness. We must be satisfied with what we earn, and not hoping to extort help from others. It is unthought-of, how the pursuit of fame

has turned many “hard-hearted” towards God. As we meditate today, we must apply caution in the way we lead our lives in the pursuit of wealth, especially when it involves dealing with widows and the fatherless. We should not oppress others and take what rightfully belongs to them. We ought not to mock the poor in our midst, as if their God is dead. Let our lives showcase the beauty of God in us, as we demonstrate restraint in our pursuance of wealth. It is also important that we reduce our wastes. Take a look at your kitchen and garbage bags to see if there are foods that could have been given to the hungry now wasted.

Faith confession: I am keen to follow the guidance of the Lord. I have made up my mind to respect others. I will not live a life of gluttony.

Let us pray: Help me Lord with your guiding spirit to lead me through this life time on earth. Help me to patiently wait on you. Let my life showcase your glory. Amen!

Meditation: Mark 8:36-37; 1 Tim. 6:3-5,10; 2 Thess. 3:6

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Overcoming Temptation

“Watch and pray; that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Matt. 26:41



Adam and Eve never saw their temptation coming, hence they fell into the snare of the serpent, which was aimed at destroying their destiny, in Genesis 3. Whereas, what appeared to Eve and Adam was a serpent, the real tempter (Lucifer) was in the garden, clothed with all manner of precious stones – Ezk. 28:13. The disciples didn't know that temptation doesn't come accompanied with a loud noise, hence they were sleeping in Matthew 26:40-41. Earlier, Jesus taught them how to pray, and one of the points He mentioned is praying against temptation in Matthew 6:13. How do we overcome temptation and sin? Apostle James have an answer – “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you” – Jam. 4:7-8. The key information here is the need to submit ourselves unto God. How can we do this? We must draw nigh to Him – not serving from afar, but approaching the throne of mercy and grace with the determination to remain committed to His calling. If we take a look at the fall of man outlined in Genesis 3, we can see how Lucifer impregnated the heart of the serpent to deceive Eve. In

Isaiah 14:12, the tempter (Lucifer) in Eden (Ezk. 28:13-14) was referred to as “son of the morning” after he transformed himself into an angel of light (1 Cor.11:14). It is important to note that Eve was tempted because she kept her desire on the fruit meant to be an abomination unto them. Temptations comes when we keep our desires on the things that offends God, and are an abomination to Him – Matt. 13:41. Hence, we are admonished to resist the devil. We can resist the devil if we resist all the abominable things that God hates and equally, commanded we should avoid. The tempter disguises as harmless until the harm is done. Beware!

Faith confession: I am willing to watch over my life to ensure I don't give room for the temptation of Lucifer. I will guide my eyes against material pleasure.

Let us pray: Lord, guide me from temptations. Quicken my spirit to enable me to know when the situation I found myself is a snare set in place by Lucifer. Amen!

Meditation: Psa. 95:7-8; Heb. 3:7-11; Rev. 3:10

Vows of Destiny

“... I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me.” Genesis 31:13



It wasn't a coincidence that Jacob encountered God in a place he later named Bethel. In the revelation, he saw a ladder connecting Heaven and Earth, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon it (Genesis 28:12). Jesus revealed in John 1:51 that He was that ladder that Jacob saw – “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.” This is why no one can be connected to the throne of God without being linked by that ladder. Something more interesting about this is that Jacob finally raised an altar of stone that he anointed and vowed unto God – Genesis 28:20-22 – “And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God. And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.” We can see in the anchor verse above in Gen. 31:13, that God reminded Jacob of his vow at Bethel. The fact that God remembered the vow is of much concern to all those

linking to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah 27:6, God intensified His promise, that those who come through Jacob shall inherit His promise – “He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.” Everyone connected to Jacob's vow through Jesus is equally covered by the terms of Jacob's vow before God. Vows before God are important because they sustain our covenant in Him. Vows indicates a sense of commitment on the side of the Christian. Have you made a vow lately? Why not make a vow today? Peace!

Faith confession: I have learnt that vows can improve my relationship with God. I am now prepared to live a life of vows.

Let us pray: Lord –sow a seed of vow-making into my heart. When I make vows before your altar, help me to remember to pay. Amen!

Meditation: Psa. 76:11; Deut. 23:21; Eccl. 5:4-5

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Covenant of Chastity

"...whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Matt. 5:28



Chastity is defined as sexual purity. It involves living in a state of being morally sane in all forms of sexually induced thoughts, words, and actions. Why is it important to overcome lust? It is because it eventually leads to death – Jam. 1:15. We might have read how Job overcame the lust of the flesh in Job 31:1, "I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?" The chief source of lust indicted in Job's statement is the "eyes." In substantiating this fact, Jesus also linked the senses of "sight and touch" as sources of lust – Matt. 5:28-30. Hence, no seeing – no lust, and no touching – no lust. It is therefore important that we guide what we see and feel. While these senses have been linked to lust, it is also a fact that hearing and smelling are all linked to lust. The cry for help from ladies have been used as "lust traps." Same with good smell of perfumes on ladies. The above discussions explain why if we must escape lust, we must control what we appreciate with the above four senses of sight, feel, smell and hearing. Also, some have equally included the sense of "taste" of a woman's food as avenue for lust. Our actions should not make unbelievers insult the ministry of Christ.

Saint Paul admonished the Church at Corinth thus, - "Giving no offence in anything, that the ministry be not blamed..." 2 Cor. 6:3. As Christians, we must endeavour to continuously attract the Grace of God by living a life that reflects His personality. God hates sexual immorality in any form. We must avoid acts of sexual misconducts – in our workplaces, churches, homes, in our schools and wherever we found ourselves. If all that your husband sees in you are your "hot legs," then be sure of device when he sees a woman with "hotter legs."

Faith confession: I understand that lust is dangerous to my spiritual health and emotional stability. I promise myself that I will discipline my thoughts against lust.

Let us pray: Dear Lord! I know that you hate anyone with a lustful spirit. Save me from the spirit of immorality, and let me stay faithful to my marriage vows. Amen!

Meditation: Lev. 18:1-30; 1 Cor. 5:1-2; Jude 1:7

The Pursuit of Knowledge

*...the Lord is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed. 1 Sam. 2:3*



A Christian pursues knowledge, becoming acquainted with information, for the glory of God. Biblical knowledge is not just the study to know scripture, but to come to know the God of scripture. The reward is obvious – 2 Pet. 1:2, “Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.” This is to enable us judge events according to the intentions of God. While some religions of the world believe that seeking knowledge beyond the realm of the physical can induce unnecessary pains on the emotional and spiritual state of humans, Christians are encouraged to seek heavenly knowledge. One can imagine the fate of young believers who wishes to grow in their knowledge and understanding of Christ when those who are ahead, who could have mentored them unto the path of spiritual maturity, have become debased and seduced to toe the path of evil? We can see why we must seek to study the scriptures and become acquainted with how to interpret the Bible. Besides, the feeling of alienation has always made humans to seek knowledge of the spiritual. Right from the Garden of Eden, the interaction between man and the

spiritual has always been there. In the book of Daniel, one come across the Chaldeans as learned, with interest in science and religion, especially in the worship of heavenly bodies (Daniel 2). Lack of a good knowledge of God can be said to have been responsible for Israel's deflection into other religious practices as seen in 1 Kings 11:33: “...Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the Ammonites.” In today's world, there is so much knowledge to pursue. In all, we must understand that our pursuit of knowledge should not corrupt the knowledge of God in us to the extent we will become haters of God – 2 Tim. 3:7.

Faith confession: I will always seek the knowledge of God. It is the path that leads to everlasting peace of mind. I will apply caution in what I read over the internet.

Let us pray: Lord, I pray - help to guide my mind from seeking the knowledge of the world that will corrupt my understanding of your person and commands. Amen!

Meditation: Hosea 4:6-7; 2 Pet. 1:2-10;

Living a Life of Peace

"The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; ... I will draw my sword, [and] my hand shall destroy them." Exodus 15:9



Why is it not good to live among one's enemies? It is because one's enemies are always plotting means to pull us down. You see, this is the reason scripture says in Prov. 16:7 – "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." It is the same reason Jesus always pronounced peace upon the disciples. Peace is important – it is the reason for the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, which is aimed at assisting countries torn by conflict to create the conditions for lasting peace. Has the world ever experienced peace? Why has there not been peace worldwide? Let's start from our homes? Why is peace lacking in many homes? It is easy to point accusing fingers on overbearing fathers or mothers, or children who have chosen the path of stubbornness. Did these characters evolve in a day? Certainly not. If we look at the anchor verse above, one will notice that an enemy is one who competes for the purpose of taking over one's possessions. Hence, one can say that the reason for war among nations is both politically and economically driven. Enmity is not developed in a day. In line with Exo. 15:9, the enemy hatches the plan to overrun you long before you know it. On several occasions, he/she must have mentioned his/her intentions in a

disagreement or quarrel. In extreme cases, our enemies can plot our death with instruments of war, such as the sword or the gun. This is the reason Christians should not step on the toes of others. Scripture says in Heb. 12:14, "Follow peace with all men...." We can live a life of peace if our ways can please the Lord, as espoused in Prov. 16:7, above. Note that our Lord warns us against harbouring evil thoughts against our neighbours – Zech. 8:17. We are to continually show them love – Matt. 22:39. One way we can achieve this is by preaching the gospel of Christ to them, not in a forceful and annoying manner, but with love and smile. We must not judge them (Matt. 7:1-2), but live righteously among them.

Faith confession: I am certain that I can live peacefully among my neighbours if I show that I am not condemning them. I believe they will receive the gospel when I live a life of love and care among them.

Let us pray: Lord! I surrender my life under your watchful eyes. Help me to live a life that pleases you, and to love my neighbours and teach them your word. Amen

Meditation: Gal. 5:14; Isaiah 32:17-18; Isaiah 33:1

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Raising a Family unto God

"... male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; and fill the earth and subdue it'" – Gen 1:27-28.



The raising and sustenance of the family is dependent on the relationship of the family with God. Hence, the family cannot live in isolation outside the will of God. Biblically, a family is raised from marriage between a male and a female. Marriage is a ministry, because it involves the raising of children unto God, who will champion the course of salvation in their own time and beyond. Today, weddings are seen as social celebrations in church and an avenue for the newly wedded couples to receive gifts and money from guests, rather than understanding the spirituality surrounding marriages. God's concern for the family is explained in Genesis 18:17-19; "And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do ... For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment..." This statement from God underlines the responsibility of families before God. To me, understanding the basis for marriage have to do with understanding the meaning of life as defined by scriptures, and in tune with the demands of righteousness before God. I submit that though, every member of the family ought to accept one another, this

acceptance has limitations – especially if it will lead to moral misconduct and the profession of an atheist behaviour in an individual. Even, Saint Paul advises in 2 Corinthians 6:14-15, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" It is my opinion that any family that begins with God will be protected from the crisis of modernity and contemporary societal beliefs, such as gender identification crisis and gay marriage.

Faith confession: I understand that God is interested in the raising of the family, and that the duty is given to both the male and female in marriage.

Let us pray: Lord! help me to abide in your word concerning the purity of marriage, and guide my heart against accepting the ideology behind same sex marriage. Amen!

Meditation: Gen. 2:24, Matt. 19:5; Prov. 22:6; Prov. 13:24; Col. 3:18-20

Sustaining Our Faith in Christ

"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." John 15:10



We sustain faith when we adhere to the instructions of our Lord. Jesus has obtained the love of the father by keeping His commandments. This is what He is expecting from us too. Why take a walk with the Lord if not to sustain Faith in God? People have thronged to the Lord, so that they can become free from all manner of worries, and here is the word of the Lord to them – "... If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" – John 8:31-32. Freedom comes when one becomes a disciple of Christ. Discipleship is about abiding and continuing in His word. As long as a disciple continues in His word, the truth that is contained in the word will bring the much-needed freedom. It is not calling the name Jesus that matters, it is living the name. Church leaders are called - Bishop, Pastor, etc., because they have claimed to represent Jesus Christ. It is therefore needful that they equally represent Him wholeheartedly. Faith is not really about miracles. What many claims to be signs and wonders of the Lord cannot be attributed to the works of faith, but that of magic. Personally, I see magic as the belief that God can be

subjected to human manipulations through sacrifices, enchantments, gifts, etc., as is seen in some other religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism and African religion. On the 26th of September 2014, at about 5am, the Lord spoke to me in the most intimate manner I have ever known, sitting by my side on my bed, he said, "let them follow me and I will change them, the way you followed me and I changed your life." Sustaining faith in the Lord is dependent on our fellowship with Him, by the Holy Spirit – John 16:14.

Faith confession: I understand that the Lord is willing to transform my life if I follow Him wherever He leads. I will always obey the Lord's commands and instructions found in the Bible, and whatsoever directives I receive through His Holy Spirit.

Let us pray: My Lord and my God, help me to depend on your Holy Spirit. Create in me clean heart and renew your steadfast spirit within me. Amen!

Meditation: Psa. 51:10; Psa. 78:5-8; Prov. 11:19-21

Overcoming Anxiety

It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. Psa. 127:2 (ESV)



I define anxiety as the act of expecting more than what God is willing to give, while “Poverty” as one's inability to see beyond food. This can be derived from the anchor verse above. To overcome the anxiety that we develop over the chase of the basic necessities of life, we need to develop our relationship with God, to the extent we can become His beloved. This is possible as long as we are joint heirs with Christ, who is already the beloved of God; for God confirmed by Himself, “...This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” – Matt. 3:17. Our anxiety cannot bring us the much we needed to sustain life on earth. Why? Scripture says – Psa. 24:1, “The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.” Hence, it is really of no use trying to by-pass the Lord to earn a living on earth. It is the singular reason we are encouraged to give thanks unto God for all that the earth brings forth to us. Jesus warned, in Matt. 6:25, “Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?” Why? It is because this is the responsibility of God –

Matt. 6:32. To merit His reward and care, we are equally advised to confess the Lord before unbelievers so that they will repent and follow the path of truth in Christ – Luke 12:8. Those who confess Jesus daily and preaches His gospel to the world are those seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness – Matt. 6:33. We have a Father in heaven, who we can approach through our kind-hearted friend, Jesus. With Him on our side –acting as our go-between, we are rest assured of success on earth. Take a bold step today and talk to someone about Christ – of His enduring love and care, and of Heaven and Hell.

Faith confession: I am encouraged to toe the path of patience in the Lord. I cease to be anxious over my situation, but placing them at the feet of Jesus for His counsel.

Let us pray: Oh Lord! save me from anxiety. Help me to appreciate all your works in my life, and to follow the path you designed for me. Amen!

Meditation: Isa. 42:16; Philippians 4:6-7; Luke 10:41-42; Rom. 10:15

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Building on the Destiny of Christ

*For other foundation can no man lay
than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ – 1 Cor. 3:11*



Destiny defines our purpose on earth, as the expression of the divine in us. How can we build on destiny? It enables us to become fulfilled in the plan of God, as we begin to see a link between our existence and our environment. After carefully studying Matt. 5:16 and Luke 2:52, I have come to realise that our cordial relationship with others can influence how far we are able to fulfil our destiny. The above two verses show that our destiny is in the mouth of our neighbours and in the hand of God. This can also be inferred from the two most important commandments that Jesus referred to, in Mark 12:30-31 – our love for God and our neighbours. I have equally come to realise that heaven don't help those who help themselves; but, those who follow the path that God has destined for them. Again, wisdom teaches that you will get to the wrong destination, if you run with the wrong people. Several questions do come into our minds as to why we find ourselves in the midst of some people. If we take a look at the disciples of Jesus, we will notice that they are men of various vocational background, temperament, habits, attitudes, etc. Yet, for them to fulfil their purpose in Christ, they are

expected to become united and work with one accord, serving the Lord – John 17:11, 21-23. Why? This can be seen in the anchor verse above – we are all building on destiny. Jesus is our destiny – He is the foundation upon which our lives on earth will be compared. Jesus is interested in the unity of His disciples, we too must be interested in the unity of all believers. Jesus loves the Father, we too must love the Father. Jesus executed the will of God while on earth, we too must obey the commands of God here on earth. Here is destiny at work. We have no choice – we must build on the life of Christ. He is the map of our destiny.

Faith confession: I have no life of my own, but the one Christ obtained for me by His blood at Calvary. Therefore, my life depends on the life Christ lived on earth.

Let us pray: Dear Lord, I pray that you help my life to become a replicate of the life you lived while on earth, as espoused in the gospel accounts. Amen!

Meditation: 1 Cor. 3:11-16; Matt. 11:28-30

To God Be the Glory

“To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty; dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.” Jude 1:25



I read of how Methuselah lived 969 years because his father, Enoch, raised him to serve God for 300 years - Gen. 5:22,27. While I ponder over how this was possible, and why Methuselah became the only man on earth to have lived this far, I came across the words in Jude 1:25, quoted above. Whereas, this form of ending is seen also, in Romans 16:27, the addition of majesty, dominion and power, in Jude 1:25 demonstrates that those who serve God wholeheartedly can experience some form of unprecedented and uncommon successes. Saint Paul attested to this fact in 1 Cor. 2:9, when he wrote that, “...as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” The life of Methuselah is evidence that those who truly serve God can have uncommon favour. Our God is fully in control of the affairs of this universe. In Job 38-39, we see the Lord reminding Job of His glory, majesty, dominion and power, over the affairs of this earth and beyond. His decisions are beyond human interrogations – Isa. 45:9. His awesomeness is beyond human contemplations. We are to stand, in awe

in worship of His glory. He commands the heavens to drop down and the skies to pour down righteousness – Isa. 45:8. We can command respect, and we are favoured only when He lives in us – Isa. 45:14. As a result of His glory, majesty, dominion and power in us, “Surely, shall one say, in the Lord have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come” – Isa. 45:24. Always return to give Him Glory – Luke 17:18. He is worthy of our praise and worship, for He is a great King - Mal. 1:14. This is why King David asked, in Psalms 8:4, “What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?”

Faith confession: Lord – when I look at your glory, majesty, dominion and power, I am afraid to lift up my face towards heaven, but for your mercy and loving kindness.

Let us pray: My God, I am not worthy to be in your presence. Let your righteous blood at Calvary stand on my behalf before the heavenly throne of God. Amen!

Meditation: Psa. 19:1; Rom. 4:20; Gal. 6:14; Rev. 14:6-7

Greed: The Enemy of Patience

“...he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, ... Hab. 2:5



I have noticed three kinds of people: the patient and not greedy; the patient but greedy; and the impatient and greedy. God approves the first, but hates the second and third category, who will stop at nothing to get what they want. They seem to always be in a hurry at all times. Their relationship with God is mainly transactional. They live by extortion. Their determination is how to gain the whole world at the expense of their souls. What is greediness? In the anchor verse from the book of Habakkuk above, the Lord answered the prophet that greediness is an act exhibited by one who is proud, always keeping away from his own home for fear of being attacked by those he has cheated, because he is always in need of more material wealth. Further in Hab. 2:6, the Lord pronounced a woe thus, "...Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his..." Taking a look at the practice of governance in some nations of the world, particularly in Nigeria where I live, one can understand the painful effects of greed as perpetrated by those in government. They have established themselves as lords of corruption, who wastes the resource of the nation in exorbitant oversea travels. It is a wonder how these sets of corrupt

politicians come around pastors, who are supposed to sustain moral dignity, but giving in to demands of donations from them. Those who steals government funds are without the fear of God, and are behind the perpetuation of evils in the land. Today, Nigeria mourns because the presence of God has departed. The multiplicity of greed in the land has led to the denial of truth, mercy, and the knowledge of God; by swearing, lying, killing, stealing and adultery—Hos. 4:1-2. We can preach this gospel to stop all these wrongs.

Faith confession: On my own part, I promise to be patient and not greedy in my dealings with others, and to serve in any leadership position with the fear of God.

Let us pray: Oh Lord! I pray that you save my heart from greed and impatience. Let my actions never invite your wrath against me. Guide me in your mercy. Amen!

Meditation: Zech. 5:1-4; John 12:1-6; Rom. 5:1-8

FEBRUARY 2019

M T W T F S S

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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

The Value of Time

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." John 9:4



The second month of this year is coming to an end already. You can still remember vividly how you rejoiced to have entered into this new year on the eve of January. So much prayers and declarations were made, I am sure. What steps have we taken to ensure that those declarations will be fulfilled this year. One enemy that will not allow us to achieve our heart desires this year is "Laxity." To me, "laxity" simply means, "not knowing the value of time." What is "time" and why is it so precious? We can agree with the saying that "time and tide waits for no man." Personally, I do not wait for time either. I always try to plan ahead of time, and to make generous use of every time at my disposal. Jesus inferred in the anchor verse above that time is limited. This inform the reason behind His busy nature, while on earth. If we really want to succeed this year, we must invest every second, minute and hour that we have. The value of time is inestimable. You must wake up on time. Arrive at meeting venues on time. Meet up with business and task deadlines on time. Start the application for a job opening on time. Cook your meals on time. Open up your business office for transactions on

time. Come to church service programs on time. Prepare your Sunday school lesson on time. Read your books before exams on time. You see, there is really no time to waste if you want your success on time. We must move ahead of time. February is gone, have you planned what you must do in March on time? As we can see, the timing of time is really important in all our human endeavours. Keep "time" in focus, and you won't miss your train. Everything we do on earth obey the rule of timeliness. Your destiny is intact as long as you keep "time" intact. Never give room for procrastination; do it today – even now. Time is precious!

Faith confession: I am determined to keep time in focus and ensure that all my actions are carried out in a timely manner.

Let us pray: Help me dear God to overcome procrastination. Quicken me always to wake up and face my responsibilities in life on time. In Jesus name - Amen!

Meditation: Ecc. 3:1-2, 11; Ecc. 8:6-7; Psa. 27:14

Limited by Deprivation?

*“But I am poor and sorrowful:
let thy salvation, O God, set me up on high.” Psa. 69:29*



Wow! February is already gone. Are there any regrets? Did we experience any denials? Have we been limited in our expectations of success by those denials? The fact is that, when we experience deprivations, we equally experience limitations. What does limitations bring to us? One glaring evident of limitations in life is poverty. We are mocked. We are insulted. Our advices fall on deaf ears. We are unable to pay our medical bills, and also, we keep living in poor health due to malnutrition. Despite the limitations that you might have experienced, there is still hope ahead. However, it is important we understand why we were deprived of the opportunities that would have enabled us to succeed. Our greatness depends on who we associate with. Usually, we are encouraged to provide a referee in our curriculum vitae (CV). The purpose is for the recruiter to assess your personality through the personality of the referee. Such persons are expected to possess credible characters in society. I have rejected acting as referee to some job applicants because I could not vouch for their person. I have equally had situations where the referee provided by job applicants in their CV advised against employment because of integrity issues.

On the spiritual side, I have seen confessions of how some cast spell of rejection upon their relatives or friends. Curses from elders can also deprive one from receiving early success. Despite all the above indications and scenarios, we can still overcome deprivation. It is important that we follow the footstep of our Lord - Jesus, who went about doing good – Acts 10:38. Also, we need to watch our pride and moral integrity. Again, we should improve on our resilience, punctuality and time management. Finally, we should be dedicated to the call of God to preach the gospel, so that His arm of deliverance will be with us always. See you in the month of March. Shalom!

Faith confession: I will improve on my moral integrity this year. I will be punctual and upright in my dealings with others, and dedicate myself to the work of God.

Let us pray: Lord! Help me to live an upright life before you, and deliver me from any curse of limitation upon my destiny. Enable me also, to respect others. Amen!

Meditation: Psa. 51:11-12; John 15:1-6; Prov. 28:13; Ecc. 11:6

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If you are not born again, you may have studied this devotional as literary material and will not receive the spirit therein. You can make a decision to correct that now by saying this covenant confession:

Lord Jesus, I know now that you died for my sins. I believe and confess you as my Lord and Saviour. Please come into my life and dwell inside me.

If you just said this confession, you should locate a spirit-filled church to join in fellowship with them – let the pastor know you just gave your life to Christ and you will be directed on what to do next. Salvation is a personal race and you must be serious with it.

*You can also call us through the numbers below: +2348076190064; +234-8086737791.
Or send the author an email: umonthoja@yahoo.com*



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WEDNESDAY

5:30PM

SUNDAY

8:30AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

7:30AM

- A total transformation in the way you Think and Act
 - Understanding the basics of the Christian life
- How to Exist as sons of God • How to Manifest the true Nature of God
- Total Freedom from satanic maneuvers • How to make Heaven

About the Author

Pastor Oghenethoja Umuteme encountered God the day he was baptised at St Stephen's Anglican Church, Owhelogbo Delta State, when he received a warm feeling in his heart as he confessed the Lord Jesus as His lord and personal saviour. His birth was surrounded with mysteries – he was born to a mother who had been barren for eight years. There was hardly anything he said that did not come to pass as he was growing. In 1994 he had a dream in which he received an orange which contained a bible with a red cover. Events continued dramatically until he started hearing voices telling him to go for rescue, as many souls were heading for destruction. Then it became clear to him that he was being called to carry out the task of restoring mankind back to Jesus.

In January 2006, he heard a voice telling him to read Isaiah 42. On reading to verse



6, he felt a deep force within him and started trembling and a voice said - 'I have called you.' As he read further

he was getting immersed in the spirit of God and when he read verse 22, the voice said, 'this is your task.' Then on the 13th of October 2008, he heard a voice while driving: 'Service starts in your house on Sunday.' Events happened that were beyond his understanding and on Sunday 19th October 2008, the first public worship service came to pass.

He is trained at Rivers State University, Nigeria; Robert Gordon University, UK; UNICAF University, Cyprus; Nations University, USA; and TGSAT, India; leading to academic degree certificates in engineering, organisational psychology, divinity and theology. He has over 11 years' work experience as an engineer, growing to the position of Engineering Design Lead in the oil and gas industry, and equally has a rich curriculum vitae that covers trainings and experiences in other works of life, such as human resources management, marketing management, legal studies, alternative dispute resolution, etc. Pastor Oghenethoja Umuteme is married to Pastor(Mrs.) Umuteme Adokiye Obele, who supports him in the call of God upon his life, and their marriage is blessed with children.